

The Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Cathedral Church of Saint George

December 21, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

We acknowledge that in Kingston we are situated on traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron Wendat peoples. We seek a new relationship with the original peoples of this land, one rooted in honour and deep respect.

WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Welcome to worship at St George's Cathedral. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! Please join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Valerie's brothers, Donald and Gerald Leamar and niece Pam and her husband, Larry, from Valerie & Bill McCreedy.

The Gathering of *the* Community

The people's responses are in bold

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

The people remain seated for the hymns.

The Sunday School Pageant

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O Little Town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie
above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light
the hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their wath of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

"To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"
and glory shone around.

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed;
and meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to us
begin and never cease.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb. *Refrain*
Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness;
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders, of His love.

The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant Jesus said, "Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother."

People Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The fourth candle is lit.

Celebrant Jesus is the light of the world.

Celebrant A light no darkness can ever extinguish.

Candle Lighting Hymn | Sung by all.



Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.

2 Mary's gift beyond all telling,
Was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
In a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
cross and glory; Empty tomb

Angel Voices
E. G. Monk 1819-1900

Mark Earey
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Sermon | The Rev. Dr. Reagan Gale

Silence may be kept. The people stand as able.

The Apostles Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The people may adopt a posture of prayer, as they wish.

The Prayers of the People

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness. Most merciful God,

People **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

An offering is received to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, or by visiting www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/donate.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able



Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
Come, manifest thy Virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

4 O Equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate

2 Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run

5 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

3 From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
Runs out his course to death and hell,
Returns on God's high throne to dwell.

6 All laud, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Puer Nobis Nascitur
Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius 1571-1621

St Ambrose c. 340-397
tr. J. M. Neale 1818-66

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed. As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven. Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me." We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages,
Amen.

People

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The Communion

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

People

Thanks be to God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in this Church. Please move to the rail at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands, responding: "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer not to receive wine from the common cup, you may simply touch the base of the chalice, again responding: "Amen." Should you wish to receive a blessing, please indicate that to the priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

The Prayer after Communion

Celebrant

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.

May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People

Amen.

The people stand as able.

Celebrant

Glory to God,

People

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. And so make haste to love, and be swift to be kind; And may the God who travels with us, the God of pilgrimage, the God of Hope, bless, care and keep you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always

People

Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit

People

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able.



O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating us from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.

3 O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.

4 O come, thou root of Jesse, draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

5 O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

6 O come, O come, thou dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

7 O come, desire of nations, show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou cornerstone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall

Veni Emmanuel

Melody adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore 1811-90

Latin Advent Antiphons

tr Thomas Alexander Lacey 1853-1931

And the Editors of the New English Hymnal, 1986

LEADING THE SERVICE

PREACHER The Rev. Dr. Reagan Gale
PRESIDER The Very Rev. Douglas Michael, *dean*
MUSICIANS Brad Barbeau, *director of music*

ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE

READERS	Sunday School Children	LIVESTREAM	Derek F. & Peter M.
SERVER	Derek Falkner & Gerald Courage	INTERCESSOR	Vanessa Michael
LAY MINSTER	Jim Anderson	VERGER	Jane Kirkpatrick
SIDESPEOPLE	Jim Anderson & Debbie Docherty		

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: New Communion Missal Scottish Liturgy for Advent

*Thank you to the Sunday School and their leaders
for offering the Pageant this morning!*

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Learn more at www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/christmas

Christmas Lessons & Carols | Sunday, December 21 • 4:30pm

Christmas Eve | 12:15pm • 4:00pm • 7:00pm • 9:30pm

Christmas Day | 10:00am

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